



# Update

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## Holiday Safety and Security at Home, in the Car, and Around the 'Hood

The holiday season should bring feelings of peace and joy, not the stress and negativity that comes from being the victim of theft or other crimes.

There are many things you can do to protect your home and family, your vehicle, and your belongings. The most basic things you should do every day are lock your doors (house and car), turn on exterior lights, and never leave valuables or your garage door opener inside your vehicle. Parking inside your garage is the safest, but your driveway is the next best. Never store firearms inside your vehicle.

Block House MUD contracts with the Williamson County Sheriff's Office to provide additional patrols to maximize the safety of Block House residents at all times. These off-duty officers assigned to the District enhance the safety of citizens and property by conducting welfare checks, responding to reports of suspicious activity, providing speed control during critical hours, conducting foot and bike patrols throughout the District parks and greenbelt areas, and providing security during community events. The officers are familiar with the District, and the extra patrol hours are random and include both daytime and overnight, for an average of approximately 40 hours per week.

The Sheriff's deputies and the MUD Board encourage residents to call the Williamson County Sheriff's Office

if you witness suspicious activity. If you see a crime in progress, do not hesitate to call 911.

Be just as vigilant in and around your home, and keep an eye on your neighbors' homes, too. Over 1 billion packages are delivered during November and December; here are some ways to help ensure they make it to their recipients:

- Have packages delivered to your place of work
- Schedule deliveries for times you will be home, if possible
- Talk to your neighbors about watching out for each other's deliveries
- Require a signature, so that packages aren't left outside
- Consider using a smart locker or PO box. Some companies are even able to deliver inside your garage or vehicle
- Monitor your front porch with security cameras or video doorbells. This can be a big deterrent for would-be thieves (see article on next page about registering your cameras with Williamson County)

After gifts are given and opened, don't leave packaging from big holiday purchases on the curb for would-be thieves to see.

Hopefully, by utilizing these tips, you will be able to more fully enjoy the holiday season.

## Santa Claus is Coming to Block House Creek on December 8!



Cocoa Christmas is coming soon! This special holiday event, sponsored by Block House MUD for all District residents, takes place on Sunday, December 8 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at the Walker House in Tumlinson Park.

Santa Claus is scheduled to arrive by firetruck (subject to emergency calls) right at 3:00 p.m., so don't forget your camera to capture his grand entrance! The event will feature yummy cookies and hot cocoa, plus lots of holiday fun! Guests are encouraged to bring a donation of new (unwrapped) toys, wrapping paper, and bows for Williamson County Brown Santa.

**Stage 2 watering restrictions (two days per week) are in effect for Block House MUD**

## The Heat is On at Apache Pool!



As you're looking for a way to stay active and enjoy the outdoors this winter, don't forget about our Apache Pool!

The pool is open Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 5:00-9:00 p.m. through February. Holiday closures are November 26 through December 1, and December 21-27. Pool tags are required and can be obtained at no charge from the lifeguards at the pool. Bring a photo ID and current water bill if you need new pool tags.

## Register Your Security Cameras

The Williamson County Sheriff's Office maintains a voluntary Community Camera Program to deter crime and promote public safety through collaboration between the Sheriff's Office and the communities they serve. Residents with home security cameras are encouraged to register online and link up with the Nextdoor application. Once registered, the Sheriff's department may contact you to request surveillance footage, which may be used as evidence in a criminal proceeding.

If interested, please find more information, including the Disclaimer and Terms of Use, online at [www.wilco.org/camprogram](http://www.wilco.org/camprogram).

Footage recorded by surveillance cameras belonging to Block House MUD located throughout the District's common areas are already used by Sheriff's Deputies to assist in solving crimes, where available.

## Fireworks Prohibited in Block House Creek

The use or possession of fireworks (including firecrackers) in Block House Creek is illegal and subject to a maximum fine of \$2,000 plus court costs.



Located within 5,000 feet of the City of Cedar Park and part of the City's ETJ (Extraterritorial Jurisdiction), Block House Creek is subject to the City of Cedar Park's fireworks ordinance. The Cedar Park Fire Marshal and Police Department will strictly enforce the City's fireworks ordinance in its ETJ.

To report the use of fireworks in Block House Creek, call the Cedar Park Police at 512-260-4600, ext. 0. Please have the violator's full address when making your report. Please do not call the Williamson County Sheriff's Office to report fireworks violations.

Your Block House MUD Board of Directors wishes you a safe and happy New Year! Hooray for 2020!



## Cheers to 10 Years!

Congratulations to our pool management company Lifeguard4Hire, celebrating a partnership of 10 years with the District in 2020!

## Adjusted Trash Service Schedule for Holidays

As in previous years, Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) will change their schedule for the weeks that include Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Trash service will slide to the next service day, meaning pickup for Block House Creek will be on **Thursday, December 26 and Thursday, January 2.**

Residents are urged to visit the TDS Waste Wizard on the Texas Disposal Systems website ([TexasDisposal.com](http://TexasDisposal.com)) to sign up for service alerts and download a customized service calendar for your address, including holiday pickups for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.

You may also sign up to receive service alerts and reminders to help avoid missed pickups. Visit <http://www.texasdisposal.com/waste-wizard/> to sign up. Future service notifications will be communicated directly from TDS via the Waste Wizard.

## Thank You for Taking Our Survey!

The MUD Board is grateful to the 360 residents who responded to the Texas Disposal Systems Curbside Pickup and Bulky Waste Disposal survey. The feedback gained was very valuable; for instance, 21% of participating residents were unaware of the current options for Bulky Waste pickup.

The results of this survey will be analyzed and discussed further, in an ongoing attempt to bring the most appealing type and level of service to the greatest number of residents.

## Outdoor Decorating Contest

The BHCOA District-wide Annual Outdoor Decorating Contest is on the lookout for outstanding outdoor holiday decorations!

Judging is done by NOMINATION ONLY, so if you have or see decorations that you feel are worthy of consideration, please submit the address(es) to the committee via the "Contact the BHCOA" box at [www.blockhousecreek.org](http://www.blockhousecreek.org) no later than December 12! There's no limit on how many addresses you can nominate, so feel free to send as many as you like. Judging night will be December 15 (outdoor decorators—be sure to turn your lights on early on the 15th and leave them on until 10:00 PM). Winners will receive a cash prize!

## Winter Wastewater Averaging Now in Effect



The winter wastewater averaging period for Block House MUD is December 2, 2019 through March 3, 2020. Customers are encouraged to conserve water during the winter averaging period to help lower bills for the following year.



The Walker House will not be staffed the week of Christmas.

## Board of Directors

Cecilia Roberts, President  
 Steve Bennett, Vice President  
 Byron Koenig, Treasurer  
 Rayan Horak, Secretary  
 Ursula Logan, Asst. Secretary

Contact the Board at  
 www.blockhousemud.com

### Block House MUD General Manager

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### Water Utility Operator/Billing Crossroads Utility Services

Lisa Torres  
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 customerservice@crossroadsus.com

### Restrictive Covenants and ACC Submissions

Pinnacle Texas Management Services  
 Tanya Emmons  
 512-795-8461  
 bhmun@pinnacletexas.com



## Amenity Addresses

Walker House, Tumlinson Park and Pool -  
 2600 S. Block House Drive  
 Apache Park and Pool -  
 3100 Block House Drive  
 Tonkawa Park - 301 Susan Lane  
 Bike Trail - 2601 S. Block House Drive

## Walker House Hours

Tuesdays & Thursdays 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,  
 Wednesdays by appointment

## Upcoming Events

Dec 3: Wastewater Averaging begins  
 Dec 8: Cocoa Christmas  
 Dec 12: BHCOA Board Meeting  
 Dec 14: Neighborhood Garage Sale  
 Dec 18: MUD Board Meeting  
 Dec 25: Christmas Day (office closed)  
 Jan 4: Polar Bear Swim  
 Jan 4: Rouse HS Fun Run Fundraiser

## Live Christmas Tree Recycling

Christmas tree recycling is again being offered to Block House Creek residents by the MUD and our landscape company, Priority Landscapes. When you are finished enjoying your live Christmas tree, remove all decorations and drop it off at the marked area near **Tumlinson Pool** between December 26 and January 12. Trees must be bare to be recycled, so remove all ornaments, tinsel, lights, and stands. Mulch created from the trees will be used in our community.



## No Parking on Bridges

Parking on bridges, like the ones on Block House Drive near BHC Elementary and Apache Pool, is dangerous and against the law. Please be extra careful to not park on the bridges during elementary school activities or while using the pool or other amenities.

## Polar Bear Swim to be Held on January 4



Block House residents of all ages and abilities are invited to take the plunge at the annual Polar Bear Swim, hosted by the Tidal Waves Swim Team, on Saturday, January 4 at Apache Pool. The freezing fun kicks off at 10:00 a.m. and will conclude around 11:00 a.m., and there's no need to sign up in advance. Come take part in this great family tradition, right here at home. (Don't forget: Apache Pool is heated, so it's not as bad as it may sound!)

Swim team registration information for the 2020 season will be available onsite that morning.

## Thank You, Campers!

The 2nd Annual Great Block House Camp Out in Tumlinson Park was a big success! Campers enjoyed hot dogs, s'mores, prizes, a bounce house, laser tag, and an outdoor movie. Many thanks to the BHC Owners Association for sponsoring this event for all District residents. If you missed it, plan to join next year! *Photos courtesy of Cecilia Roberts.*



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